

Page 5, beginning at line 14, please replace the paragraph as follows:

--Without departing from the scope of the invention, the window electrode can comprise successively a first highly refractive layer, a first metallic layer, a second highly refractive layer, a second metallic layer and the [said] antireflective layer.--

IN THE CLAIMS

--15. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell comprising:

an absorber layer[, particularly of the CIS type];

at least one transparent window electrode disposed on a side on which light is incident, said window electrode comprising at least a first [metal-base thin] metallic layer and at least one antireflective layer deposited on the side on which light is incident, situated opposite the absorber layer; and

at least one first [highly] refractive dielectric oxide or nitride layer between the absorber layer and the metallic layer of the window electrode.

16. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one [of the] first dielectric [layers is composed of] layer includes zinc oxide.

17. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the metallic layer [is composed of] includes silver or silver alloy and the antireflective layer is a [highly] refractive oxide or nitride layer.

19. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the window electrode comprises in succession said first [highly] refractive layer, said first metallic layer, a second [highly] refractive layer, a second metallic layer, and said antireflective layer.

20. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one [of the highly] first refractive [layers is composed of] layer includes one of the oxides ZnO, SnO₂, BiO_x, TiO₂, Al₂O₃ and/or one of the nitrides AlN, Si₃N₄.

21. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, further comprising a second electrode [composed of] including at least one metallic layer and one [highly] refractive oxide or nitride layer.

22. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the metallic layer of the window electrode[, particularly a silver layer,] has a thickness of less than 20 nm, and [the] a total thickness of the window electrode is less than 120 nm.

23. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, [wherein] further comprising a blocking layer [is] disposed between the metallic layer and [one of the highly refractive layers] said at least one refractive layer.

24. (Amended) A process for [manufacture of] manufacturing a thin-film solar cell comprising:

providing an absorber layer [as well as] and at least one transparent window electrode dispersed on a side on which light is incident, with at least one metallic layer and one antireflective layer applied on the side on which light is incident[, wherein it is manufactured in such a way that]; and

forming at least one [highly] refractive dielectric oxide or nitride layer [is provided] between the absorber layer and the metallic layer of the window electrode.

25. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the window electrode is formed by a succession of layers with one [thin metal-base] metallic layer between two [highly] refractive oxide or nitride layers.

26. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the window electrode is formed by a succession of a first conductive dielectric or transparent layer, of the [metal-base conductive] metallic layer, and of another conductive dielectric or transparent layer.

27. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, [wherein the solar cell comprises] further comprising forming a second electrode [also made with] by applying at least one other [thin] metallic layer and one [highly] other refractive oxide or nitride layer.

28. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the [solar cell is made with an] absorber layer [of] comprises chalcopyrite.

Claims 29-44 (New).--

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16. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one first dielectric layer includes zinc oxide.

17. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the metallic layer includes silver or silver alloy and the antireflective layer is a refractive oxide or nitride layer.

19. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the window electrode comprises in succession said first refractive layer, said first metallic layer, a second refractive layer, a second metallic layer, and said antireflective layer.

20. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one first refractive layer includes one of the oxides ZnO, SnO₂, BiO_x, TiO₂, Al₂O₃ and/or one of the nitrides AlN, Si₃N₄.

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21. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, further comprising a second electrode including at least one metallic layer and one refractive oxide or nitride layer.

22. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the metallic layer of the window electrode has a thickness of less than 20 nm, and a total thickness of the window electrode is less than 120 nm.

23. (Amended) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, further comprising a blocking layer disposed between the metallic layer and said at least one refractive layer.

24. (Amended) A process for manufacturing a thin-film solar cell comprising:
providing an absorber layer and at least one transparent window electrode dispersed on a side on which light is incident, with at least one metallic layer and one antireflective layer applied on the side on which light is incident; and

forming at least one refractive dielectric oxide or nitride layer between the absorber layer and the metallic layer of the window electrode.

25. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the window electrode is formed by a succession of layers with one metallic layer between two refractive oxide or nitride layers.

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26. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the window electrode is formed by a succession of a first conductive dielectric or transparent layer, of the metallic layer, and of another conductive dielectric or transparent layer.

27. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, further comprising forming a second electrode by applying at least one other metallic layer and one other refractive oxide or nitride layer.

28. (Amended) A process according to Claim 24, wherein the absorber layer comprises chalcopyrite.

Please add new Claims 29-44 as follows:

29. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein said at least one dielectric layer has a thickness of about 30 to about 50 nm.

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30. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the metallic layer is disposed between two dielectric layers having a thickness of about 30 to about 50 nm.

31. (New) A thin-film solar-cell according to Claim 17, wherein the antireflective layer comprises a layer of refractive oxide covered by a layer of nitride.

32. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 15, wherein the absorber layer comprises a CIS structure.

33. (New) A thin-film solar cell comprising:
an absorber layer;

at least one transparent window electrode disposed on a side on which light is incident, said window electrode comprising at least a first metallic layer and at least one antireflective layer deposited on the side on which light is incident, situated opposite the absorber layer; and

at least one first refractive oxide or nitride layer between the absorber layer and the metallic layer of the window electrode, and having a thickness of about 30 to about 50 nm.

34. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein said at least one first dielectric layer includes zinc oxide.

35. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein the metallic layer includes silver or silver alloy and the antireflective layer is a refractive oxide or nitride layer.

36. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein the window electrode is formed by a succession of layers comprising at least one dielectric layer, said metallic layer, and another dielectric layer.

37. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein the window electrode comprises in succession said first refractive layer, said first metallic layer, a second refractive layer, a second metallic layer, and said antireflective layer.

38. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein said at least one first refractive layer includes one of the oxides ZnO, SnO₂, BiO_x, TiO₂, Al₂O₃ and/or one of the nitrides AlN, Si₃N₄.

39. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, further comprising a second electrode including at least one metallic layer and one refractive oxide or nitride layer.

40. (New) A thin-film solar cell according to Claim 33, wherein the metallic layer of the window electrode has a thickness of less than 20 nm, and a total thickness of the window electrode is less than 120 nm.